

**WILLIAMSBURG CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
APRIL 7, 2003**

The Williamsburg City Council held a work session on April 7, 2003, at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Stryker Building.

ATTENDANCE

Present were Ms. Zeidler, Messrs. Haulman, Houghland, Scruggs and Tabb. Also present were City Manager Tuttle, City Attorney Phillips, and City Clerk Crist

Staff Attending: Department Heads Nester, Serra, Walentisch, and Assistant City Manager Jodi Miller.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Zeidler called the meeting to order.

OPEN FORUM

Mayor Zeidler opened the session for public comment.
No one else wished to speak. The session was closed.

BACKGROUND PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS

Sharpe Community Partnership Program, Off-Campus Housing Web Site

Reference for this item was Mr. Nester's report dated April 3, 2003. Mr. Nester explained that the Planning Department participated for a second year with the Sharpe Program in partnership with the College of William and Mary. The program is designed to encourage first year students to explore issues in our national life and to be involved in these issues through public service. Last year the student project was to study the impact of off-campus housing, and their report was used as background information on the Rental Housing Registration and Inspection Program. This year, students continued the focus on off-campus housing by development of an Off-Campus Housing web site for students.

Frannie Ames, a Sharpe Fellow and Senior at the College, said this was the second year of the Sharpe program. The Sharpe students live together and take many of their classes together. They have worked with Mr. Nester on the website, and she felt the website project was great to avail to students.

Mayor Zeidler welcomed the students: Wess Garner, Susanna Klosko, Joseph Locke, Diana Sherban, and Tim Slattery.

The students presented a power point presentation. They provided information about last year's project, which studied off-campus housing for students. This year, the students better acquainted themselves with our community and the city ordinances and regulations regarding housing. Students reviewed the information included on the website about where students live, a map of the area showing rental housing, the Williamsburg Area Transport Route map, expenses for students who live off-campus, a typical student budget, and student financing. The website included what students should look for if they become an off-campus renter, how to review a lease including the security deposit, signing the lease, renters insurance, etc., and basic knowledge for renters. Next year, the Sharpe students will work on the Comprehensive Plan update in hopes that the community will better understand the role of the student.

Mayor Zeidler thanked the students for their presentation. The report from last year's Sharpe study was very useful to the city. The website was impressive, accessible, and provided a wealth of information. Council members were very impressed with the work of the students.

Mr. Haulman was in hopes that that Student Affairs will become more involved in addressing off-campus student housing, and that it becomes part of the orientation process as a more systematic way of getting the information to students. Mr. Scruggs suggested this information would be valuable to landlords.

Mr. Haulman thanked Heather Ayres, Coordinator of the Sharpe Program, Sam Sadler from the office of Student Affairs at the college, Reed Nester and his staff, and Mr. Tuttle and Ms. Miller. He thanked the freshmen students for their work.

Williamsburg-James City County School Budget Review

Reference for this item was a letter from John Alewynse, Chair of the School Board, which included a copy of a Projected Revenue Summary and Projected Expenditures by State Function Categories.

Mr. Tuttle said that this was the third of three budget work sessions and this would deal with the School budget. City Council will hold their public hearing on the budget at the April 10 Council meeting.

Dr. Alewynse, Chairman of the School Board, thanked Council for the opportunity to present their budget. This is a budget of need, in light of the present economic climate. The budget has been trimmed from \$300,000 to \$400,000 from what was originally proposed by the Superintendent. The Strategic Plan Goals were to focus on academic achievement and equity, and to attract staff.

Priority One: Improve/Enhance staff compensation.

Priority Two: Class size initiatives

Priority Three: Continue the Technology Plan Initiative

Priority Four: Continue High School Programming Initiatives

Mr. Ludwig addressed the Operating Budget, Projected Revenues, and Capitol Improvements. (See copies of attached presentation information.)

Dr. Alewynse asked for Council's favorable consideration.

Mayor Zeidler thanked the board members and staff for being present. This is a defensible budget with priorities in the right places. Council may not be able to fully fund the school's request, but she had confidence in the Board that they could make the right cuts in the budget if necessary. She thanked the Board for their work.

Council, the Board, and Superintendent discussed

1. Starting pay for teachers as an index for all teachers
2. Funding for New Horizons
3. The "No Child Left Behind" program.
4. Reduction in the purchase of new buses.
5. Health Insurance Costs

6. Cutting the number of reserve teachers
7. Unfunded mandates for the schools
8. Programs and curriculum decisions that have been made for the good of our schools, that give students the opportunity to achieve, but they have a higher cost.

Mayor Zeidler said Council would like to hear from the School Board more often throughout the year, and especially to hear about school successes.

Members of the School Board were present to present their budget request which was “a budget of need.”

PREVIEW OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING – April 10, 2003

Council members received a copy of the agenda.

Marketing/Tourism Funding to Colonial Williamsburg Foundation: Council members received a memorandum from Mr. Tuttle regarding a one-time contribution to the tourism/marketing efforts of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Mr. Tuttle explained \$100,000 would come from the current year’s CIP budget, and an additional \$150,000 from next year’s CIP budget. Council members received a letter from Mr. Ed Allmann, Director of Marketing, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, explaining how the incremental funds could have substantial impact on tourism. Mr. Tuttle suggested that now would be a good time for Council to make their decision, in order for CWF to utilize the money at this critical time. Mr. Tuttle explained that this year’s money would reduce the year end’s balance by \$100,000, and next year the sidewalk allocation and stormwater project funds would be reduced to cover the \$150,000, which would delay some projects until the following year.

The Mayor clarified that if Council approves the expenditure, it would be for one time only.

Council members concurred that Colonial Williamsburg Foundation will receive a special allocation of \$250,000, to be distributed as discussed.

Appointments to Boards and Commissions: Mayor Zeidler asked Ms. Crist to contact the people listed to ask if they are interested in reappointment. The vacancy on the Industrial Development Authority will be advertised.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS—April 2003

Council members received a copy of the April meeting calendar.

OPEN FORUM

Mayor Zeidler opened the session for public comment.
No one wished to speak. The session was closed.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Houghland Moved that City Council go into Closed Session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of discussing one legal matter per subparagraph 7 for the purpose of consultation on specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by counsel. The Motion Was Seconded by Mr. Tabb.

Recorded Vote on the Motion:

Aye: Haulman, Scruggs, Zeidler, Tabb, Houghland

No: None

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m. (Mayor Zeidler called a five-minute recess.)

At 2:50 p.m., Council met in Open Session.

Mr. Houghland Moved the Certification of Closed Meeting. The Motion was Seconded by Mr. Tabb.

Recorded Vote on the Motion:

Aye: Haulman, Zeidler, Scruggs, Tabb, Houghland

No: None

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

Date: April 10, 2003

Motion: Mr. Houghland Second: Mr. Tabb

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Williamsburg has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the City Council that such meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia Law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Williamsburg hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed session were heard, discussed or considered by the City of Williamsburg.

VOTE:

Aye: Haulman, Scruggs, Zeidler, Tabb, Houghland

No: None

Absent During Vote: None

Absent During Meeting: None

The meeting adjourned at 3:51 p.m.

Approved: May 8, 2003

Shelia Y. Crist, Clerk of Council

Jeanne Zeidler, Mayor